

Instructions for Anti-harassment Petitioners

Before completing the forms for a Temporary Protection Order for Unlawful Harassment, please read the following paragraphs:

“Unlawful Harassment” means a knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person which seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is detrimental to such person, and which serves no legitimate or lawful purpose. The course of conduct shall be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and shall actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner, or, when the course of conduct is contact by a person over age eighteen that would cause a reasonable parent to fear for the well-being of their child. **“Course of conduct”** means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of “course of conduct.”

The unlawful harassment statute **does not** allow an order for protection from civil harassment to be issued in any action covered by the **domestic violence laws (Chapter 10.99 and 26.50 RCW)**. **Domestic Violence** is defined as physical harm, bodily injury, assault, including sexual assault, stalking OR the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault. **To be considered domestic violence, these actions must occur between family or household members.** **“Family or household members”** means spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time, adult persons related by blood or marriage, adult persons who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past, persons sixteen years of age or older who are presently residing together or who have resided together in the past and who have or have had a dating relationship, persons sixteen years of age or older with whom a person sixteen years of age or older has or has had a dating relationship, and persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren. **“Dating relationship”** means a social relationship of a romantic nature.

If you are a victim of Domestic Violence do not fill out these forms. Instead you should go to the Lewis County Clerk's Office, which is located on the 2nd floor of the Law and Justice Center. They will have Protection Order forms for victims of domestic violence.

To apply for a civil anti-harassment order, you will need to:

***Please note: The person you are naming as the Respondent must be 18 years of age or older.**

1. Request forms from the clerk. Fill out the forms completely. These forms include:
 - a. Petition and Declaration for an Order of Protection (Unlawful Harassment)
 - b. Law Enforcement Information Sheet. You must include a Date of Birth or approximate age for the Respondent. This form will **not** be served on the Respondent.

Ask for a **Motion for Waiver of Fees** if you are unable to pay the \$83.00 filing fee. A law enforcement agency will, in most cases, be serving the **Order to Show Cause** or **Temporary Order** on the Respondent.

**** Also please note:** If there is no signed **Order Waiving Fees**, you will be responsible for the law enforcement cost of serving the paperwork.

2. Return with your completed forms and picture I.D. at **8:00 AM** on a **Monday, Thursday, or Friday**. The clerk will review the forms to see if all information is complete. She will give the forms a case number and make a file.
3. Pay the \$83.00 filing fee (unless you are filing a **Motion for Waiver of Fees**).
4. The judge will see you at approximately **8:15 AM, Monday, Thursday, or Friday**, either in chambers or the courtroom. If the judge issues an **Order to Show Cause** or **Temporary Order for Protection (AH)**, be sure to wait for and get your certified copy at the front counter.
5. Return to court for the hearing on the day and time indicated in your **Order to Show Cause** or **Temporary Order for Protection**.